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PAPER FROM RICE STRAW.

According to Eastern Engineering, a combine of Dutch paper manufacturers proposes to establish a factory in the Dutch East Indies for the manufacture of paper from rice straw. It is stated that excellent writing paper has already been made from this material.

SOUTH AFRICA USES A VEGETABLE FUEL

Shortage of Gasoline Develops
New Alcohol and Ether Com-
pound for Motor Cars.

CAPE TOWN, Oct. 1.—In addition to natallite, which is manufactured in Natal from the refuse of the sugar cane mills and used extensively in propelling motor cars in South Africa, there has recently been produced another motor fuel to meet the shortage and high cost of gasoline in this country. The basis of this new fuel, which is called "acetol," is alcohol and ether, which comprises 90 per cent. The other ingredients are treated as a secret until the patentee receives his patent rights.

It is said that this fuel apparently solves the question of the air cooled engine. No carbon sediment is formed in the cylinder, and the fuel is claimed to be non-injurious to the carburetor and engine. No special carburetor is required. Acetol mixes with gasoline. The inventor claims that it has a wider explosive range than the ordinary marketed gasoline, i. e., both a weaker and an overrich charge in the cylinder heads will fire when gasoline fitters out or chokes. Tests made with this fuel are said to have produced very satisfactory results.

It is claimed that acetol can be manufactured much more cheaply than the present cost of gasoline in South Africa. The retail selling price of gasoline at the coast ports of this country, which is fixed by the Government, is \$1.12 an imperial gallon (11-15 American gallons) if purchased in cases of two cans containing four gallons each and \$1.22 a gallon if purchased in smaller quantities. Natallite now sells at 60 cents a gallon.

BETTER CASES NEEDED FOR TIN SHIPMENTS

Frail Packing Not Suited to
Export Trade.

In view of the important bearing which the condition of American tin plate at the time of arrival in Japanese ports has upon the establishment and maintenance of a permanent market for this product in Japan, close attention should be given to the packing of tin plate for shipment. It has been suggested that while a case fourteen by twenty inches, packed with 112 sheets, 100 pounds of tin plate, may consist of a frame made of wood about three-eighths inch thick, with top and bottom about one-eighth inch thick, and serve very satisfactorily for domestic use, such a case is not suitable for export. A case of sufficient strength to carry intact from the mill to the customer in Japan should be constructed with a frame at least one inch in thickness and with tops and bottoms made from wood at least one-half inch thick. In addition, care should be taken in the selection of material for the cases, wood without knots being the most desirable.

It is noted that while the construction of such cases incurs a small additional expense this should be charged by the manufacturer, the same as other prices to the buyer, who would willingly meet this slight obligation in order to insure the safe arrival of merchandise in undamaged condition.

GRAIN ELEVATORS FOR AUSTRALIA

Farmers Form a Large Coop-
erative Concern.

ADELAIDE, Australia, Oct. 11.—There has just been formed in Adelaide the Farmers' Bulk Grain Cooperative Company (Ltd.), with an authorized capital of 500,000 pounds sterling (\$2,433,350), for the purpose of constructing and operating a complete system of grain and wheat elevators at country railway stations and at the principal ports of South Australia.

It is understood that the Commonwealth Government will assist the company, under certain conditions, in financing its construction work up to two-thirds of the estimated cost. The State Government of South Australia approves of the company's plans and will also render assistance in granting facilities to construct silos (elevators) at railway stations and at the seaports.

Interested American manufacturers of grainhandling equipment should correspond with the secretary of the company, A. M. F. Buildings, Adelaide, South Australia.

RICE MARKET SLUMPS.

Grip of Bad Times Felt by Farm-
ers of Japan.

TOKYO, Oct. 1.—Another startling slump has occurred in the rice market, and speculators and holders are frightened and turning free sellers in increasing numbers. In Tokyo forwards are already below \$13, and the ruling quotations on the Tokyo Rice and Produce Exchange are the lowest registered within the last few years.

Farmers in every part of the country have begun to feel the grip of bad times. When new rice was being garnered, very few bankers would give credits on its quality, and farmers are now requesting brokers in Tokyo to dispose of their holdings at brokers' prices. Some, more pressed for money, are sending their rice to Fukagawa on consignment.

WAGES IN JAPAN DROP.

Downward Movement Began Mid-
dle of Last June.

TOKYO, Oct. 1.—The wages in Tokyo, which continued to increase at a remarkable rate during the last few years, keeping pace with the rapid advance of prices, have taken a downward movement since about the middle of last June.

According to the investigation of the Tokyo Chamber of Commerce, the average index number of wages of mechanics and other workers last June in Tokyo was 401, showing a fall of about 2.2 per cent. compared with 410 of last March, the average amount of wages of all mechanics and workers for 1920 being taken as 100. Still compared with 267, the average index figure for June, 1919, the figure for last June shows a wide discrepancy of 33 per cent. or more.

TO DEVELOP WOOLEN INDUS- TRY.

MELBOURNE, Oct. 1.—A scheme for the development of the woollen industry of Australia, providing for the formation of large companies to manufacture woollen goods, is being strongly supported by members of the Country party in the Federal Parliament. The plan, which was put forward by the Bureau of Science and Industry, calls for six companies, one in each State, to undertake the main operations in the manufacture of woollens, such as top-making, spinning and weaving. In addition to the companies in the States, there will be smaller concerns in the country centres for doing as much as possible of the spinning and weaving.

FRUIT CROP GOOD IN NEW ZEALAND

Planting of Lemon Trees Dis-
couraged by Experience of
Last Winter.

AUCKLAND, Oct. 1.—According to late information the prospects for New Zealand's coming fruit season are good, and this is especially true of stone fruits, some of which have advanced far enough to make it quite clear that the crop is exceptionally promising. As yet it is too early to give any very definite estimate in regard to the apple and pear crops further than to state that everything is favorable for a bumper crop for these fruits.

The cold winter has seriously affected some citrus fruits, especially lemons, and oranges in some cases. Lemon trees have been planted of late more numerous than heretofore, but this winter has given this industry quite a setback. A good strawberry crop is expected this season. It is stated that double the number of plants were placed last autumn, and that their appearance is very favorable at present. A few berries are already ripened in some localities about Auckland, and the crop should be coming in freely by the middle of October.

POWER COMPANIES IN JAPAN UNITE

New \$60,000,000 Concern
Will Exercise Controlling
Influence in Southwest.

TOKYO, Oct. 1.—The merger of three big power companies and the resultant establishment of one of the biggest power companies in Japan was effected when the controllers of those establishments signed a provisional contract recently.

The fusion of the Nippon Water Power Company, the Osaka Power Transmission Company and the Kiso Electric Company, which are the three leading power plants in Osaka and vicinity, was considered for some time. Often the deal has been reported as consummated, but the final arrangement was postponed on the difficulty to reach an understanding among the controllers of the three concerns in regard to the future controllers of the consolidated company.

In effecting the merger the Nippon Water Power Company will deliver 144,000 shares of the company to the Kiso Electric Company before the merger, while the Osaka Power Transmission Company will have no share and join the new company unconditionally. The Kiso Electric Company will obtain, besides 144,000 shares of the Nippon Water Power Company, 225,000 shares of the new company. The provisional contract is carried out there will be a big power company capitalized at \$50,000,000, and it will have a controlling influence in the electric industry in the southwestern part of Japan.

FAST CHINESE EXPRESS.

Weekly Special Will Run Between
Peking and Hankow.

PEKIN, Oct. 1.—The headquarters of the Peking-Hankow Railway here announce that the railway administration is arranging to run a weekly special express train, which will cover the distance between Peking and Hankow in twenty-eight hours.

The train will be for first and second class passengers only and an extra express ticket will be required. It will be run in the same manner as the Tientsin-Pukow express.

AUSTRALIA TURNS TO AMERICA

MELBOURNE, Oct. 1.—A bill is being prepared for presentation to the Federal Parliament which will provide for Australia having fuller representation in the United States. An opportunity will be given for discussion in Parliament, and Ministers are not wedded to any particular form of representation. The object is to bring about more direct and closer relations between the Commonwealth and the United States. One suggestion is to have a representative at Washington, not instead of but in addition to the Australian Commissioner in New York.

LOCKLEAR'S STUNTS TO HELP COMMERCE IN AIR

Recklessness That Killed Avi-
ator Wasn't in Vain.

CHICAGO, Oct. 30.—The reckless aerial acrobatics with which Omar Locklear started the world until they resulted in his death recently in California have not been in vain, according to air mail service officials here, for they report Locklear's "stunts" have opened the way for important developments in commercial aviation.

Locklear's feat of changing from one plane to another several thousand feet above the earth will be copied in the air mail service and by commercial aviation companies in changing sacks of mail, packages or pilots from one ship to another, thus enabling aerial line to make long journeys without landing, officials say. Some believe that within a short time airplanes may even take gasoline and supplies in the air.

When one of the mail-carrying airplanes which aviators believe soon will be common flies over the control station, a smaller plane will come up to meet it, the officials explain, and by means of a rope mail sacks or other packages will be lowered from the large to the small plane. With a long hook the large ship will take on baggage from the smaller ship and speed on to its destination.

Eventually it is expected that this plan will be perfected so that fuel supplies can be transferred from one plane to another, making possible a nonstop coast to coast trip. Pilots will change planes in midair by using a rope ladder lowered from one machine to the other, just as Locklear did, it is explained.

The Government has been conducting tests along this line for some time, officials here say, and one commercial aviation company is reported to be planning to put the scheme into effect within a few months in transferring mail.

BREMEN TO BE BIG AIR PORT.

BREMEN, Oct. 30.—Eleven million marks have been subscribed for the establishment of an air port here on a huge scale, with extensive aerodrome, custom house, hangars, repairing shops, signalling apparatus and every improvement to facilitate international aerial navigation. This will place Bremen in a far better position than Hamburg, which has not exhibited the same interest in aviation.

THE STORY of SILK



Out of their silken prisons the dusty little moths pierce their way to lay the tiny eggs which become the "seeds" of the silk crop for the next year. The rearing of the worms is an exacting science, requiring so much personal attention that it is impossible to undertake the work on a large scale.

It is because sericulture is limited to the farm homes in Japan where the little spinners are cared for so skillfully, that they produce threads of such superior quality.



The tiny little silkworms are hatched out on the papers on which the eggs were laid, and then placed in small trays. From this time until these worms have spun their cocoons they are cared for most constantly, for the quality and quantity of their spinings depend entirely upon the attention and feeding they receive.



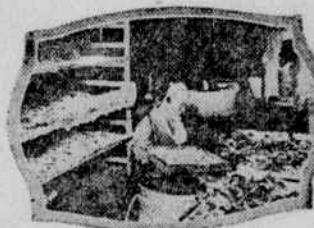
The silkworms are most fastidious in the matter of food. They eat only fresh, finely cut mulberry leaves, hand picked, from these trees, which seem to grow best in Japan.

To feed these ever-hungry little silk makers, leaves from trees covering over a million and a quarter acres are required.



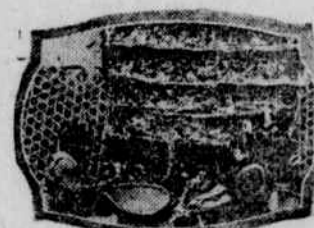
When the worms are very small they eat seven or eight times a day, and during this period the housewives are never very far from their charges. Day and night special meals of the mulberry leaves, cut fine, must be prepared and sprinkled over the hungry little money makers.

On stormy days the housewives get a little rest, for the worms enjoy eating only when the weather is agreeable to their artistic temperaments.

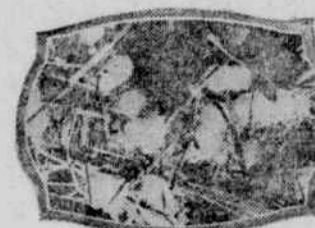


The hungry worms eat so much and grow so fast that in the first five weeks of life they increase in size many times. But in these five weeks they eat enough to last them the rest of their lives.

When satiated, they grow restless and the farmer is glad, because he knows his worms are ready to go to work.



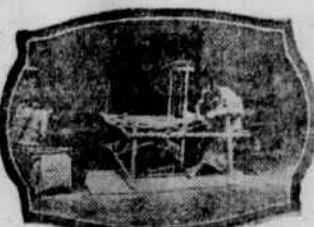
When the silkworm goes to work he undertakes his new job with great seriousness. Climbing up the rice-straw ladders, which the little Japanese girls have ready for the occasion, he picks out a comfortable spot and starts to spin. He works as industriously as he ate, for he never stops until he has "done his bit," which is from 500 to 1,200 yards of silken thread.



—and this is the "crop" the Japanese farmer raised—thousands and thousands of these little shells of silk. All the time the worms were spinning constant care had to be exercised to prevent two worms spinning their cocoons together. Double cocoons cannot be unwound.



After sorting the cocoons for quality the cocoons are boiled to kill the chrysalides. Then the tiny filaments are caught up and the cocoons literally unwound. As the Japanese housewife reels these tiny threads together they unite to form a single uniform rounded strand of lustrous raw silk.



Of course there are many large establishments in Japan which produce rich silken fabrics for the markets of the whole world, but every farmer's wife weaves remarkably fine cloths whenever she finds an interval from household or field duties.



And when the fabrics are complete skilled workmen apply the wonderful colors and patterns which have made Japanese Silks eagerly sought for by buyers in all countries; but by far the largest quantity and the finest qualities find their way to America.

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